

STILLWATER COUNTY

RESOLUTION 2012 - 26

NATURAL DISASTER (DROUGHT) DECLARATION

WHEREAS, agriculture and supporting industries are a major economic contributor to Stillwater County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has received a recommendation to declare disaster by the Stillwater County Drought Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, Stillwater County has received substantially below normal precipitation over the last 12 months; and

WHEREAS, the normally, wettest part of the county south of the Yellowstone is the driest this year, an average of -5 inches below normal for the water year; and

WHEREAS, dryland hay production in the county is estimated to be 15% normal; and

WHEREAS, most of the dryland spring wheat is not expected to make a harvestable grain crop; and

WHEREAS, livestock pasture and range conditions are extremely poor due to lack of precipitation, excessive winds, and grasshoppers; and

WHEREAS, many wells, springs and dams have gone dry; and

WHEREAS, groundwater supplies are at a critical state; and

WHEREAS, conditions are not expected to improve in the near future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a natural disaster is declared for agriculture in Stillwater County; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture is urged to use any and all means available to help agriculture in Stillwater County; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture address using soil moisture monitoring and other means of determining usable soil moisture for a natural disaster declaration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be filed with the Governors Drought Advisory Committee, Stillwater County Clerk & Recorder, County Assessor and Emergency Services Division in Helena.

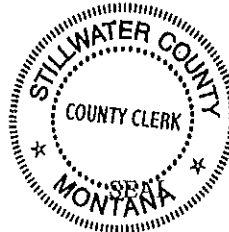
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners, Stillwater County, Montana, this 3<sup>RD</sup> day of July, 2012.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
STILLWATER COUNTY

Dennis Shupak  
Dennis Shupak, Chairman

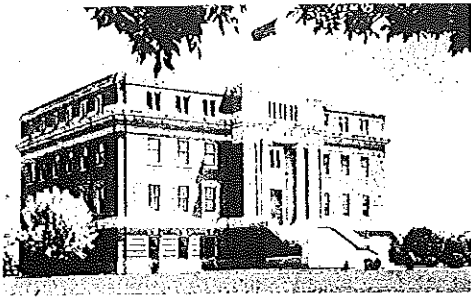
Gerald W. Dell  
Gerald W. Dell, Member

Maureen Davey  
Maureen Davey, Member



ATTEST:

Pauline M. Mishler  
Pauline M. Mishler, Clerk & Recorder



**COUNTY OF STILLWATER**  
**STATE OF MONTANA**  
**STILLWATER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**P. O. BOX 970**  
**COLUMBUS, MONTANA 59019**

June 29, 2012

Governor Brian A. Schweitzer  
Office of the Governor  
Montana State Capitol Bldg.  
P.O. Box 200801  
Helena MT 59620-0801

**RE: Request to initiate a Natural Disaster Designation**

Honorable Governor Schweitzer:

The Stillwater County Board of Commissioners is requesting that you please initiate a Natural Disaster Designation (NDD) for Stillwater County with the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. Enclosed is Stillwater County's Resolution declaring a *Natural Disaster Declaration*.

We understand this would open discussions considering the utilization of the Conservation Reserve Program acres for grazing and haying purposes. Additionally, this could allow extension of Crop Market loans, provide for low interest emergency loans for money that producers may need to borrow and also allow the Small Business Administration to extend loans to agriculture businesses which may experience impact from drought conditions. This may also offer a primary designation with the Internal Revenue Service to allow delayed investments to restore breeding livestock numbers that may have to be sold due to lack of forage.

Stillwater County has received substantially below normal precipitation over the last 12 months.

We appreciate your consideration in this matter and if you should have any questions, please don't hesitate to call our office at 406-322-8010. Thank you.

Sincerely,

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**STILLWATER COUNTY**

*Dennis Shupak*  
Dennis Shupak, Chairman

*Gerald W. Dell*  
Gerald W. Dell

*Maureen Davey*  
Maureen Davey